ATTACHMENT #1

1. (Previously Amended) In an electronic mail (e-mail) system, a method for sending an e-mail message using a secured connection that employs encryption~~determining whether to approve relaying of e-mail received from a roaming user~~, the method comprising:

receiving at a message transfer agent (MTA) a request from a client for establishing a secured connection with the MTA for sending an e-mail messag~~attempting to authenticate the user for purposes of relaying an e-mail, through use of a certificate~~;

attempting to authenticate the client, through use of a certificate, in order to identify the client as approved for establishing a secured connection with the MTA~~if the user cannot be authenticated, immediately terminating the method without approval of relaying~~;

if the client cannot be authenticated, terminating the method without establishing the secured connection and without sending the e-mail message~~determining a certificate issuer for the now-authenticated user~~;

if the client can be authenticated, establishing the secured connection between the client and the MTA~~certificate issuer is unknown to the system, immediately terminating the method without approval of relaying~~;

determining whether the encryption employed for the secured connection meets a predefined minimum encryption strength~~relaying is allowed based on identity of the certificate issuer~~;

if the encryption employed does not meet the predefined minimum encryption strength, terminating the secured connection without sending the e-mail message, whereupon the method terminates; and~~relaying is allowed based on identity of the certificate issuer, immediately terminating the method with approval of relaying~~:

if the encryption employed does meet the predefined minimum encryption strength, sending the e-mail message.

~~determining whether relaying is allowed based on identity of the user as a certificate subject; and~~

~~if relaying is allowed based on identity of the certificate subject, terminating the method with approval of relaying, otherwise terminating the method without approval of relaying.~~